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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9221

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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USLO PEKING

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TW, JA, CH, US

SUBJ: JAPAN'S REACTION TO CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S DEATH

SUMMARY: REMEMBERING CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S GENEROUS TREATMENT OF JAPAN AFTER WWII, JAPANESE ARE SADDENED BY HIS DEATH. FORMER PM'S SATO AND KISHI LEAD LIST OF LDP DIETMEN WHO WILL ATTEND FUNERAL. FONOFF EXPECTS LITTLE CHANGE IN TAIWAN'S DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN POLICIES ALTHOUGH PRES YEN AND CHIANG CHING-KUO ARE EXPECTED TO BE LESS IDEOLOGICAL AND MORE PRAGMATIC IN FORMULATING POLICIES. NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH PEKING NOR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A SOVIET OPTION ARE ANTICIPATED. EFFECTS ON US-TAIWAN AND US-PRC RELATIONS ARE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. RELATIONS WITH JAPAN ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED BY CHIANG'S DEATH. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE REACTED WITH PERSONAL REGRET AND CONDOLENCES OVER THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK BUT OFFICIALLY, BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THE GOJ REMAINED SILENT. FONOFF, (FUJITA) NEVERTHELESS, BRIEFED NEWS-CONFIDENTIAL

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MEN ON THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR TAIWAN'S INTERNAL AND EXTER-

NAL POLICIES FOLLOWING CHIANG'S DEMISE. INITIAL ASSESSMENT, RELAYED TO US BY CHINA DIV (OGURA), ANTICIPATES NO IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN TAIWAN'S POLICIES, SINCE PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO HAS IN FACT BEEN RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT IN THE LONGER RUN THE JAPANESE ANTICIPATE LESS IDEOLOGY AND MORE PRAGMATISM TO DOMINATE TAIWAN'S POLICIES. CHIANG CHING-JAO IS NOT EXPECTED TO NEGOTIATE WITH PEKING NOR TURN TO THE RUSSIANS. THE ELDER CHIANG'S DEPARTURE IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON RELATIONS WITH JAPAN. OLDER ADVISORS TO PRESIDENT CHIANG LIKE CHANG CHUN, WHO ALSO HAD TIES WITH JAPAN, WILL MOVE FURTHER FROM THE STAGE AND FROM INFLUENCE. TWO-WAY TRADE WITH JAPAN WHICH REACHED \$2,964 BILLION LAST YEAR IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND ALTHOUGH THE GOJ WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF TAIWAN TOOK STEPS TO ACHIEVE GREATER BALANCE, TRADE IS NOW LOPSIDED IN JAPAN'S FAVOR BY \$1,050 BILLION.

2. THE FONOFF DOES NOT EXPECT ANY EARLY BREAKTHROUGH IN RESTORING THE AIRLINK WITH JAPAN, SINCE TAIWAN'S NEW GOVT WOULD NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE MAKING CONCESSIONS TO JAPAN. IN AN UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE TAIWAN-OKINAWA FERRY SERVICE WHICH WAS CUT WHEN AIR TIES WERE CUT, WENT BACK INTO SERVICE APRIL 5.

3. OF GREATEST INTEREST IS WHAT EFFECT PRESIDENT CHIANG'S DEPARTURE MIGHT HAVE ON US-TAIWAN AND US-PRC RELATIONS. THE PRESS AND FONOFF WONDER OUT LOUD IF THE US WILL USE THE OCCASION TO MAKE FURTHER MOVES TOWARD THE PRC EITHER NOW OR DURING PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO THE PRC. LOSS OF MAN WITH WHOM US HAD SPECIAL TIES AS TEMPTING MOMENT FOR US TO SHIFT TOWARD PEKING IS OFFSET IN FONOFF ASSESSMENT FOR MOMENT ANYWAY BY DIFFICULTIES IN WHICH US IS EMBROILED FROM INDOCHINA TO ME TO PORTUGAL. PEKING IS EXPECTED TO STEP UP CALLS FOR REUNIFYING TAIWAN WITH THE MAINLAND, PERHAPS OFFERING NEW BLANDISHMENTS, BUT NO RADICAL ACTION IS EXPECTED FROM THE MAINLAND.

4. IN TAIWAN ITSELF, THE FONOFF EXPECTS CHIANG CHING-KUO TO CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE DEVELOPMENT OF TAIWAN'S ECONOMY AND THE TAIWANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY, MOVING MORE NATIVE
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TAIWANESE INTO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. FONOFF, ACCORDING TO OGURA, EXPECTS PRES YEN AND CHIANG CHING-KUO TO PAY LIP SERVICE TO "ONE CHINA" AND CHIANG'S OTHER SACRED PRINCIPLES FOR SAKE OF STABILITY ON TAIWAN BUT IN FACT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE A "ONE CHINA-ONE TAIWAN" POLICY.

5. FONOFF HAS BEEN INFORMED CHIANG'S FUNERAL WILL BE HELD APRIL 16. SIZEABLE NUMBER OF DIETMEN ARE EXPECTED TO GO.

FORMER PM SATO AND KISHI WILL LEAD THE PARADE BUT OGURA SAID THEY WOULD ATTEND AS INDIVIDUALS AND NOT AS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF EITHER THE GOJ AND THE LDP. GOJ TOYED WITH IDEA OF SENDING THE DIETMEN TO TAIWAN ON A CHARTERED JAL FLIGHT BUT FONOFF INALLY CONCLUDED THAT SUCH A MANEUVER WOULD BE VERY "UN-ASIAN" AND COUNSELED AGAINST THE SUGGESTION.

6. MEDIA BANNER REPORTED CHIANG'S DEATH, FREQUENTLY RECALLING THE DEAD PRESIDENT'S MAGNIMITY TO JAPAN AFTER WWII. HIS DEPARTURE AND THE DIMINISHING INFLUENCE OF SENIOR ADVISORS LIKE CHANG CHUN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SERVE TO INCREASE THE DISTANCE BETWEEN JAPAN'S AND TAIWAN'S LEADERSHIP.

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